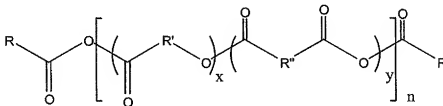


Claims

1. (original) A drug delivery composition comprising
a polymer comprising ester or ester-anhydride bonds, wherein the polymer is
formed from an unsaturated fatty acid and at least one alkane-dicarboxylic acid or alkyl
hydroxyl acid, and
a biologically active agent.
2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the biologically active agent is
selected from the group consisting of small drug molecules, peptides and proteins, DNA
and DNA complexes with cationic molecules.
3. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form
suitable for administration by injection.
4. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is a poly(ester-
anhydrides) with the formula:



where R is a linear or branched aliphatic or aromatic moiety when $x+y=1$ and x is not 0, or R is an unsaturated fatty acid with at least one *cis*-double bond, or an ester of ricinoleic acid,

R' is a ricinoleic acid residue,

R'' is an aliphatic or aromatic moiety, and

n is an integer from 1 to 200.

5. (original) The composition of claim 4, wherein R is a natural or synthetic fatty acid selected from the group consisting of: oleic acid, ricinoleic acid, and linolenic acid.

6. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dicarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of C₄ to C₂₂ linear alkane dicarboxylic acids, dimer erucic acid, dimer oleic acid and non-linear fatty acid-ester derivatives of ricinoleic acid, fumarate or succinate and mixtures thereof.

7. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dicarboxylic acid is a derivative of oligomers or polymers of hydroxy acids.

8. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymer is prepared from purified ricinoleic acid, wherein ricinoleic acid comprises at least 90% by weight of the polymer.

9. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the biologically active agent is encapsulated in microparticles or nanoparticles.

10. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the biologically active agent is selected from the group consisting of the group consisting of antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents, antidepressants, analgesics and local anesthetics.

11-14. (canceled)